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The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

From *Thursday November* 10. to *Saturday November* 12. 1709.

Will's Coffee-house, November 11.

THE *French* Humour of writing Epistles, and publishing their fulsom Compliments to each other, is a Thing I frequently complain of in this Place. It is, methinks, from the Prevalence of this silly Custom, that there is so little Instruction in the Conversation of our distant Friends: For which Reason, during the whole Course of my Life, I have desir'd my Acquaintance, when they write to me, rather to say something which should make me wish my self with them, than make me Compliments that they wish'd themselves with me. By this Means, I have by me a Collection of Letters from most Parts of the World, which are as naturally of the Growth of the Place, as any Herb, Tree or Plant, of the Soil. This I take to be the proper Use of an Epistolary Commerce. To desire to know how *Damon* goes on with his Courtship to *Silvia*, or how the Wine tasts at the *Old Devil*, are thread-bare Subjects, and cold Treats, which our absent Friends might have given us without going out of Town for 'em. A Friend of mine who went to Travel, us'd me far otherwise; for he gave me a Prospect of the Place, or an Account of the People, from every Country through which he pass'd. Among others which I was looking over this Evening, I am not a little delighted with this which follows:

Dear Sir,

'I Believe this is the first Letter that was ever sent you from the Middle Region, where I am at this present Writing. Not to keep you in Suspence, it comes to you from the Top of the highest Mountain in *Switzerland*, where I am now shivering among the eternal Frosts and Snows. I can scarce forbear dating it in *December*, though they call it the first of *August* at the Bottom of the Mountain. I assure you, I can hardly keep my Ink from freezing in the middle of the Dog-Days. I am here entertained with the prettiest Variety of Snow-Prospects that you can imagine, and have several Pits of it before me that are very near as old as the Mountain it self; for in this Country, it is as lasting as Marble. I am now upon a Spot of it which they tell me fell about the Reign of *Charlemain* or King *Pepin*. The Inhabitants of the Country are as great Curiosities as the Country it self: They generally hire themselves out in their Youth, and if they are Musquet-proof till about Fifty, they bring Home the Money they have got, and the Limbs they have left, to pass the rest of their Time among their native Mountains. One of the Gentlemen of the Place, who is come off with the Loss of an Eye only, told me by Way of Boast, that there were now seven Wooden Legs in his Family; and that for these four Generations, there had not been one in his Line that carried a whole Body with him to the Grave. I believe you will think the Style of this Letter a little extraordinary; but the *Rehearsal* will tell you, that *People in Clouds must not be confin'd to speak Sense*; and I hope we that are above them may claim the same Privilege. Wherever I am, I shall allways be,

SIR,

Your most Obedient,

Most Humble Servant.

I think they ought, in those Parts where the Materials are so easy to work, and at the same Time so durable, (when any one of their Heroes comes Home from the Wars) to erect his Statue in Snow upon the Mountains, there to remain from Generation to Generation. A Gentleman who is apt to expatiate upon any Hint, took this Occasion to deliver his Opinion upon our ordinary Method of sending young Gentlemen to travel for their Education. It is certain, said he, if Gentlemen travel at an Age proper for them, during the Course of their Voyages, their Accounts to their Friends, and after their Return, their Discourses and Conversations, will have in them something above what we can meet with from those who have not had those Advantages. At the same Time it is to be observed, that every Temper and Genius is not qualified for this Way of Improvement. Men may change their Climate, but they cannot their Nature. A Man that goes out a Fool, cannot ride or sail himself into common Sense. Therefore let me but walk over *London Bridge* with a young Man, and I'll tell you infallibly whether going over the *Rialto* at *Venice* will make him wiser. It is not to be imagined how many I have saved in my Time from Banishment, by letting their Parents know they were good for nothing. But this is to be done with much Tenderness. There is my Cousin *Harry* has a Son, who is the dullest Mortal that was ever born into our House. He had got his Trunk and his Books all packed up to be transported into Foreign Parts, for no Reason but because the Boy never talked: and his Father said, he wanted to know the World. I could not say to a fond Parent, that the Boy was dull; but looked grave, and told him, the Youth was very thoughtful, and I feared he might have some Doubts about Religion, with which it was not proper to go into *Roman*-Catholick Countries. He is accordingly kept here till he declares himself upon some Points, which I am sure he will never think of. By this Means, I have prevented the Dishonour of having a Fool of our House laughed at in all Parts of *Europe*. He is now with his Father upon his own Estate, and he has sent to me to get him a Wife, which I shall do with all convenient Speed; but it shall be such a one, whose good Nature shall

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hide his Faults, and good Senſe ſupply 'em. The Truth of it is, that Race is of the true *Britiſh* Kind: They are of our Country only; it hurts 'em to tranſplant 'em, and they are deſtroyed if you pretend to improve 'em. Men of this ſolid Make are not to be hurried up and down the World, for (if I may ſo ſpeak) they are naturally at their Wit's End; and it is an impertinent Part to diſturb their Repoſe, that they may give you only an Hiſtory of their Bodily Occurrences, which is all they are capable of obſerving. *Harry* had an elder Brother who was tryed in this Way. I remember, all he could talk of at his Return, was, that he had like to have been drowned at ſuch a Place, he fell out of a Chaiſe at another, he had a better Stomach when he moved Northward than when he turned his Courſe to the Parts in the South, and ſo forth. It is therefore very much to be conſidered, what Senſe a Perſon has of Things when he is ſetting out; and if he then knows none of his Friends and Acquaintance but by their Clothes and Faces, it is my humble Opinion, that he ſtay at Home. His Parents ſhould take Care to marry him, and ſee what they can get out of him that Way; for there is a certain Sort of Men, who are no Way to be regarded, but as they deſcend from Men of Conſequence, and may beget valuable Succeſſors. And if we conſider, that Men are to be eſteemed only as they are uſeful, while a ſtupid Wretch is at the Head of a great Family, we may ſay, the Race is ſuſpended; as properly as when it is all gone, we ſay, it is extinct.

From my own Apartment, November 11.

I had ſeveral Hints and Advertiſements from unknown Hands, that ſome, who are Enemies to my Labours, deſign to demand the faſhionable Way of Satisfaction for the Diſturbance my Lucubrations have given them. I confeſs, as Things now ſtand, I don't know how to deny ſuch Inviters, and am preparing my ſelf accordingly: I have bought Pumps and Files, and am every Morning practiſing in my Chamber. My Neighbour, the Dancing-Maſter, has demanded of me, Why I take this Liberty, more than I would allow it him? But I anſwer'd, His was an Act of an indifferent Nature, and mine of Neceſſity. My late Treatiſes againſt Duels have ſo far diſoblig'd the Fraternity of the noble Science of Defence, that I can get none of them to ſhow me ſo much as one Paſs. I am therefore oblig'd to learn by Book, and have accordingly ſeveral Volumes, wherein all the Poſtures are exactly delineated. I muſt confeſs, I am ſhy of letting People ſee me at this Exerciſe, becauſe of my Flannel Waſtcoat, and my Spectacles, which I am forc'd to fix on the better to obſerve the Poſture of the Enemy. I have upon my Chamber-Walls, drawn at full Length, the Figures of all Sorts of Men, from Eight Foot to Three Foot Two Inches. Within this Height I take it, that all the fighting Men of *Great-Britain* are comprehended. But as I puſh, I make Allowances for my being of a lank and ſpare Body, and have chalk'd out in every Figure my own Dimenſions; for I ſcorn to take any Man's Life away by taking Advantage of his Breadth: Therefore I preſs purely in a Line down from his Noſe, and take no more of him to aſſault, than he has of me: For to ſpeak impartially, if a lean Fellow wounds a fat One in any Part to the Right or Left, whether it be in Cart or in Terſe, beyond the Dimenſions of the ſaid lean Fellow's own Breadth, I take it to be Murder, and ſuch a Murder as is below a Gentleman to commit. As I am ſpare, I am alſo very tall, and behave my ſelf with Relation to that Advantage with the ſame Punctilio; and I am ready to ſtoop or ſtand, according to the Stature of my Adverſary. I muſt confeſs, I have had great Succeſs this Morning, and have hit every Figure round the Room in a mortal Part, without receiving the leaſt Hurt, except a little Scratch by falling on my Face, in puſhing at one at the lower End of my Chamber; but I recovered ſo quick, and jumped ſo nimbly into my Guard, that if he had been alive, he could not have hurt me. It is confeſſed, I have writ againſt Duels with ſome Warmth; but in all my Diſcourſes, I have not ever ſaid, that I knew how a Gentleman could avoid a Duel if he were provoked to it; and ſince that Cuſtom is now become a Law, I know nothing but the Legiſlative Power, with new Animadverſions upon it, can put us in a Capacity of denying Challenges, tho' we are afterwards hanged for it. But no more of that at preſent. As Things ſtand, I ſhall put up no more Affronts; and I ſhall be ſo far from taking ill Words, that I will not take ill Looks. I therefore warn all young hot Fellows, not to look hereafter more terrible than their Neighbours; for if they ſtare at me with their Hats cocked higher than other People, I won't bear it. Nay, I give Warning to all People in general to look kindly at me; for I'll bear no Frowns, even from Ladies; for if any Woman pretends to look ſcornfully at me, I ſhall demand Satisfaction of the next of Kin of the Maſculine Gender.

Advertiſements.

On Monday next will be publiſh'd,

*** Bibliotheca Anatomica, Medica, Chirurgica, &c. Containing a Deſcription of the ſeveral Parts of the Body: Each done by ſome One or more Eminent Phyſician or Chirurgeon; with their Diſeaſes and Cures. Wherein are not only all the Tracts of Uſe that are in the ſecond Edition of the Bibliotheca Anatomica, lately publiſh'd by Daniel Clericus and Jacob Mangetus, in Two Volumes in Folio, but an Addition alſo of near double the Number of other Curious Tracts, which were either omitted in the ſaid Bibliotheca, or have been publiſh'd ſince, ſome of them tranſlated, others faithfully abridg'd; very few of which were ever before in Engliſh. Illuſtrated with ſeveral Hundred Figures, done by the beſt Artiſts, and from the trueſt Deſigns; as will appear from the Name to each Figure. To be publiſh'd Monthly. This Firſt for November, 1709. begins with ſeveral Tracts relating to the External Parts of the Body, and of the Bones in general; with divers Figures. In the Savay: Printed by John Nutt; and ſold by W. Lewis in Ruſſel-ſtreet, Covent-Garden; Dan. Brown without Temple-Bar; J. Pemberton in Fleet-ſtreet; R. Knaplock at the Biſhop's-Head, R. Wilkin at the King's-Head, and M. Atkins at the Golden-Ball, in St. Paul's Church-yard; W. Taylor at the Ship in Pater-noſter-Row; T. Horne under the Royal-Exchange; A. Bell at the Croſs-Keys, in Cornhill; and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Pr. 1 s.

THIS is to Certify, That I Anne Gimball, Daughter of Ezekiel Gimball in Chriſt-Church Pariſh in Southwark, was blind of Cataracts from my Birth, and continu'd ſo till I was Sixteen Years of Age, when I apply'd my ſelf to Sir William Read, Her Majeſty's Oculiſt, in Durham-yard in the Strand, London; who couch'd, and brought me to Sight of both my Eyes in leſs than Two Minuets, and have now ſo perfect a Sight, that I am capable of any Buſineſs; as is atteſted for the Benefit of the Publick, this 4th of Nov. 1709. Anne Gimball.

Witneſs, Ezekiel Gimball.

PRince Eugene's moſt delicious Snuff, ſo much celebrated in moſt Courts of Europe, is ſolely diſpos'd of in this Kingdom at Mr. Morris's, the Corner-Houſe of St. Alban's-ſtreet facing Pall-Mall, ſeal'd up in Half-Crown Boxes; the Seal repreſenting his Head; and round it, Prince Eugene's Snuff.

This Day is publiſh'd,

*** A Narrative of the Proſecution of Mr. Sare and his Servant, for ſelling the Rights of the Chriſtian Church, in Anſwer to what relates to that Proſecution in the Second Part of the Defence of the ſaid Book. By Samuel Hilliard, M. A. Prebendary of Lincoln. Printed for Henry Clements at the Half-Moon in St. Paul's Church-yard.

LOſt on the 28th of the laſt Month, a Key of a Watch with a Silver Chain, and Seal with this Coat of Arms, Three Leopards Heads in a Feſs, Curris'd, between Three Oſtriches Feathers. Whoever brings the ſaid Chain and Seal to the Tennis-Court Coffee-houſe in the Cockpit, ſhall receive Half a Crown Reward.

Lately publiſh'd,

*** The SEVENTH VOL. of the Works of Mr. Wm. Shakeſpeare: Containing, Venus and Adonis, Tarquin and Lucrece; and his Miſcellany Poems, with Critical Remarks on his Plays. To which is prefix'd, an Eſſay on the Art, Riſe, and Progreſs of the Stage in Greece, Rome, and England. N. B. There are ſome printed on fine large Paper to compleat Sets. Printed for J. Pemberton at the Golden Buck againſt St. Dunſtan's Church, Fleet-ſtreet. Pr. 5 s. ſmall, 10 s. large.